

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 24

Establishing the House Democracy Assistance Commission for the One
Hundred Tenth Congress.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 2007

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. DREIER, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. HOLT, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. REYES, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. LANTOS, Ms. WATSON, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. HONDA, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, Mr. HOYER, Mr. KIRK, Mr. POMEROY, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. DAVIS of Alabama) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Establishing the House Democracy Assistance Commission
for the One Hundred Tenth Congress.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.**

3 There is established in the House of Representatives
4 a commission to be known as the House Democracy As-
5 sistance Commission (hereafter in this resolution referred
6 to as the “Commission”).

1 **SEC. 2. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMISSION.**

2 (a) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission
3 shall be composed of 20 Members of the House of Rep-
4 resentatives, of whom 11 shall represent the majority
5 party and be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
6 Representatives and 9 shall represent the minority party
7 and be appointed by the Minority Leader of the House
8 of Representatives.

9 (b) TERMS OF MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REP-
10 REPRESENTATIVES.—Each member of the Commission shall
11 be appointed for a term that is concurrent with the Con-
12 gress in which the appointment is made. Such a member
13 may be reappointed for one or more subsequent terms in
14 accordance with the preceding sentence.

15 (c) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the Commis-
16 sion shall be designated by the Speaker of the House of
17 Representatives from among the members appointed by
18 the Speaker of the House of Representatives under sub-
19 section (a).

20 **SEC. 3. DUTIES.**

21 (a) ACTIVITIES.—The Commission shall work with
22 the legislatures of partner countries, as determined pursu-
23 ant to subsections (b) and (c)(3), on a frequent and reg-
24 ular basis in order to—

25 (1) enable Members, officers, and staff of the
26 House of Representatives and congressional support

1 agencies to provide expert advice and consultation to
2 members and staff of the legislatures of partner
3 countries;

4 (2) enable members and staff of legislatures of
5 partner countries to study the operations of the
6 House of Representatives and its support agencies;
7 and

8 (3) provide recommendations to the Adminis-
9 trator of the United States Agency for International
10 Development regarding the provision of material as-
11 sistance, such as modern automation and office sys-
12 tems, information technology, and library supplies,
13 as the Commission determines to be needed by a leg-
14 islature of a partner country in order to improve the
15 efficiency and transparency of its work, and to over-
16 see the provision of such assistance.

17 (b) SELECTION OF PARTNER LEGISLATURES.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—In order to carry out the ac-
19 tivities described in subsection (a), the Commission
20 may conduct, as needed, studies on the feasibility of
21 programs of assistance for legislatures of countries
22 described in paragraph (2) for the purpose of
23 strengthening the legislative infrastructure of such
24 countries. Such studies shall assess—

1 (A) the independent and substantive role
2 that each legislature plays, or could reasonably
3 be expected to play, in the legislative process
4 and government oversight;

5 (B) the potential benefit to each legislature
6 of expert advice from and consultation with
7 Members and staff of the House of Representa-
8 tives in areas such as the development of re-
9 search services and legislative information sys-
10 tems, legislative procedure, committee oper-
11 ations, budget process, government oversight,
12 and constituent services; and

13 (C) the need in each legislature for mate-
14 rial assistance, such as modern automation and
15 office systems, information technology, and re-
16 search materials, in order to improve efficiency
17 and transparency.

18 (2) COUNTRIES DESCRIBED.—The countries re-
19 ferred to in paragraph (1) are countries that have
20 established, have re-established, or are developing
21 democratic legislatures which would benefit from the
22 assistance described in this resolution.

23 (3) ADDITIONAL PARTNER LEGISLATURES.—
24 From any countries studied in accordance with para-
25 graph (1), the Commission may select one or more

1 legislatures to receive assistance under the provi-
2 sions of this resolution, subject to a written expres-
3 sion of interest from the highest ranking office with-
4 in the legislature of a selected country.

5 (c) REPORTS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than December 31,
7 2007, and each December 31 thereafter, the Com-
8 mission shall prepare and submit to the Speaker of
9 the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader
10 of the House of Representatives, appropriate House
11 committees, the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs
12 of the House of Representatives, and the Adminis-
13 trator of the United States Agency for International
14 Development, an annual report on the Commission’s
15 activities, including a review of the activities of the
16 Commission in the current year and a proposal for
17 the activities of the Commission in the upcoming
18 year, as described in subsection (a).

19 (2) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
20 “appropriate House committees” means the fol-
21 lowing committees of the House of Representatives:

22 (A) The Committee on International Rela-
23 tions.

24 (B) The Committee on Appropriations.

1 (C) The Committee on House Administra-
2 tion.

3 (D) The Committee on Rules.

4 **SEC. 4. ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RE-**
5 **LATIONS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall carry out
7 the duties described in section 3 using the staff and re-
8 sources of the Committee on International Relations, in-
9 cluding the use of consultants or temporary employees,
10 such as individuals with expertise in development of demo-
11 cratic parliaments, legislative systems management, legis-
12 lative research, parliamentary procedure, related legisla-
13 tive matters, and technology systems management, as ap-
14 propriate.

15 (b) PARTICIPATION OF LEGISLATIVE BRANCH EM-
16 PLOYEES.—At the request of the Commission, the head
17 of any office of the House of Representatives or any con-
18 gressional support agency may assist the work of the Com-
19 mission by—

20 (1) detailing personnel to the staff of the Com-
21 mittee on International Relations or another stand-
22 ing committee of the House of Representatives; or

23 (2) authorizing personnel to participate in ac-
24 tivities of the Commission.

1 **SEC. 5. TRANSITION FROM FORMER COMMISSION.**

2 (a) CONTINUATION OF EXISTING PROGRAMS.—The
3 Commission may continue programs of assistance with
4 legislatures of partner countries which were initiated by
5 the former Commission.

6 (b) TRANSFER OF AUTHORITIES AND RESOURCES.—
7 Any authorities and resources of the former Commission
8 which remain available as of the day before the date of
9 the adoption of this resolution, including unobligated
10 funds, shall be transferred and made available to the Com-
11 mission.

12 (c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the “former Com-
13 mission” means the House Democracy Assistance Com-
14 mission established under the House Democracy Assist-
15 ance Commission Resolution (House Resolution 135, One
16 Hundred Ninth Congress, agreed to March 14, 2005).

